

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING- SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 6:15 PM. The board meeting took place in the meeting room of the Alpine School District Special Education Office in Lindon, Utah.

Board members present: President Jennifer Lyman, Vice President Sterling Hilton, Guy Fugal, Grace Rex, David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen

Remote: Board member Ada Wilson.

Also present: Superintendent Joseph Jensen, Business Administrator Jason Sundberg, members of the administrative staff, and approximately 79 others were in attendance.

President Jennifer Lyman called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. President Lyman welcomed those in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Michelle Price**. Board members, district administration, staff, and members of the public joined in reciting the pledge.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Karen Hunter, Director of Prevention and Safety, shared an inspirational thought focused on connection, student well-being, and the district vision.

Ms. Hunter reflected on the opening words of the district vision, "Together, we," and described them as a commitment that students should not have to navigate the challenges of childhood alone.

In recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, she shared recent Utah data indicating improvement in the percentage of youth reporting serious thoughts of suicide and in the number of students struggling without reaching out for support. She emphasized that connection is one of the most important protective factors in suicide prevention and referenced the use of SafeUT and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline as examples of individuals reaching out for connection and support.

Ms. Hunter also referenced district climate, culture, and connection data showing that students generally feel cared for by adults at school.

She shared an experience from her work as a school psychologist involving a young student experiencing significant emotional distress. She described how a caring teacher, supportive principal, and engaged parents worked together to identify the concern and connect the student with needed support.

Ms. Hunter thanked the Board for prioritizing student mental health and safety and emphasized the district's commitment to exceptional care, curiosity, community, and belonging.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Lyman reviewed the procedures for community comment and noted that four individuals had signed up to address the Board.

Jessica Cook, a Lindon resident and parent of current and future Oak Canyon Junior High students, spoke regarding Oak Canyon Junior High's inclusion in the school closure study. Ms. Cook said she had reviewed Oak Canyon using the district's own robust-school criteria and questioned why the school was being considered for possible closure. She cited the relative age of the building, current and projected enrollment, geographic location, and academic performance. She noted that Oak Canyon is one of the district's newer junior high facilities, has strong current and projected enrollment, serves Lindon and portions of surrounding communities, and performs strongly on state assessments. Ms. Cook asked the Board to clarify which criteria outweighed those factors and resulted in Oak Canyon being identified for study. She acknowledged that

declining enrollment requires difficult decisions but encouraged the Board to apply its established criteria consistently.

Jennifer Jensen, a resident of the Bonneville area, encouraged the Board to consider access and transportation when evaluating school centrality. She reflected on her years of service with PTSA at Orem Junior High and Timpanogos High School and described students whose family circumstances limited their ability to participate in extracurricular activities because they relied on walking, buses, or assistance from other families. Ms. Jensen specifically discussed the challenges students may face crossing State Street and 800 North and emphasized that proximity to school can influence a student's ability to participate fully in school activities, not simply whether transportation is available during regular school hours. She encouraged the Board to consider the needs of students who depend on walkability and geographic access when evaluating school locations and boundaries.

Diana Putnam, a Lindon resident and parent participating in Dual Language Immersion, spoke regarding the uncertainty families are experiencing as the Board considers grade configuration, school closure, boundary, and DLI changes. She expressed concern about how future changes could affect families who have made long-term commitments to DLI programs. She encouraged the district to continue reaching families who may not yet have students enrolled in district schools but are making future educational plans. Ms. Putnam discussed the commitment families make when entering DLI through a lottery and selecting where to live based in part on access to those programs. She specifically recognized Orchard Elementary's Spanish DLI program and praised the teachers and learning environment provided through the program. She encouraged the Board to preserve meaningful opportunities for DLI students as future decisions are made.

Jamie Allred, a longtime Lindon resident, expressed concern about the possibility of school closures affecting Lindon Elementary and Oak Canyon Junior High. She described her family's long-term commitment to Lindon and its schools and said it was discouraging for the community to again face the possibility of school closure. Ms. Allred questioned whether Rocky Mountain Elementary could adequately absorb a significantly larger number of students without relying on portable classrooms and expressed concern about cafeteria, gym, and instructional capacity. She also discussed potential transportation burdens if Lindon students were assigned to Orem Junior High and asked the Board to consider geographic alternatives, including Pleasant Grove Junior High, if Oak Canyon were ultimately closed. Ms. Allred encouraged the Board to consider the broader impact of closure decisions on families, community identity, transportation, and continued support for public schools.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Lyman presented the minutes of the previous Board Meeting for approval.

Motion: Vice President Hilton moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Board Member Grace Rex seconded the motion.

Board Discussion

President Lyman entertained a motion to approve the minutes as previously presented. There being no further discussion, President Lyman called for the vote.

The motion passed unanimously, 7/0

EXPENDITURE REPORT/CLAIMS

Superintendent Joseph Jensen presented the expenditure report and claims and recommended approval.

Motion: Board Member David H. Smith moved to approve.

Second: Board Member Michele Sorensen.

Discussion

Board Member David H. Smith asked **Business Administrator Jason Sundberg** whether there were any significant expenditures or financial issues the Board should be aware of. **Mr. Sundberg** reported that approximately \$200,000 had been expended from Fund 12, the General Fund, throughout the first two months of the fiscal year. Based on current spending, the district was tracking at approximately \$1.2 million annually against a budget of approximately \$1.6 million and remained in a good position. **Mr. Sundberg** noted that Fund 36 included a significant expenditure associated with the district's recent land purchase. **Board Member Michele Sorensen** asked for clarification regarding the fiscal year. Mr. Sundberg explained that the fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 and that the report reflects July and August. **Board Member Sorensen** asked whether expected increases in expenditures later in the year were related to additional employees being hired as the district continues preparing for operations. **Mr. Sundberg** confirmed that the approved FY27 budget included positions beginning later in the fiscal year, including administrative assistants, hourly employees, and other staff who may begin employment prior to July 1, 2027.

There being no further questions, President Lyman called for the vote.

The board voted in favor of approving the Expenditure Report and Claims, and the motion passed unanimously, 7/0

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. School Grade Configurations Discussion

Superintendent Jensen introduced the grade configuration discussion and noted that the Board had held a Study Session earlier in the day focused more extensively on configuration options. He explained that no action was scheduled during the Board Meeting and that the agenda item provided an opportunity for Board members to discuss what they had learned through the Study Session and the three public hearings held that evening. Superintendent Jensen noted that additional focus groups were scheduled for Monday, followed by community cluster meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday at the district's four high schools. Those meetings would provide additional opportunities for Board members and district staff to listen to public feedback.

President Lyman encouraged members of the public who wanted to better understand the work leading to the current proposals to watch previous Board Study Sessions available through the district's YouTube channel. She emphasized that the configuration discussion had been underway for an extended period of time and had included significant discussion with staff and administrators. President Lyman said the public hearings had fulfilled an important purpose by helping Board members identify possible blind spots. She noted that several comments made during the hearings raised issues she had not previously considered and assured participants that their feedback had been heard. She emphasized that the Board was continuing to study the options and had not yet reached a final configuration decision.

Board Member Sorensen encouraged the public to watch the Study Session held earlier that day, particularly the discussion with two junior high principals about what a 6–8 middle school model could look like. She said the discussion helped distinguish a potential middle school model from the traditional junior high model many community members may picture when considering sixth graders moving into a secondary setting. Board Member Sorensen referenced ideas shared by Pleasant Grove Junior High Principal Mr. Schoonover and his leadership team regarding how sixth-grade students could be supported while still gaining access to additional programs and opportunities. She also noted that existing sixth-grade experiences, including curriculum-based activities such as the Medieval Fair, could continue under a middle school configuration. Board Member Sorensen again referenced the district's robust-school criteria as the foundation for configuration decisions and emphasized the goal of creating schools where students can thrive.

Superintendent Jensen reminded the public that robust-school criteria, frequently asked questions, boundary-study information, and other resources are available through the district website. He emphasized that grade configuration is only one component of the broader boundary study and said the district is intentionally sharing significant information in an effort to remain highly transparent.

Vice President Hilton expressed appreciation for the public hearings and said the feedback was helping Board members consider perspectives or implications they may not previously have identified. He asked the Board to discuss how seriously it should consider a 7–8 junior high configuration as an alternative to the proposed 6–8 model. He invited Board members to share their current thinking regarding the potential advantages and disadvantages of a 7–8 configuration.

Board Member Wilson expressed concern that a 7–8 model could result in significant underutilization of existing junior high facilities. She said operating large buildings at approximately two-thirds capacity could create an undesirable school environment and would not make the most efficient use of district resources. Board Member Wilson also noted that moving sixth grade to middle school could create additional room within elementary schools. She identified potential uses for that space, including restoring or expanding pre-K programs, providing appropriate classrooms for special education teachers, and more intentionally locating special enrollment programs such as gifted and talented and Dual Language Immersion. She expressed appreciation for the public hearing comments and said she had heard perspectives she had not previously considered.

Board Member Fugal noted that maintaining a 7–8 model could require the district to close an additional junior high in order to create appropriately sized schools.

President Lyman noted that, based on the state funding model and anticipated enrollment, a 7–8 configuration could result in the district operating only three junior high schools. She said this would complicate the Board's goal of creating four more aligned feeder systems between four junior highs and four high schools.

Board Member Fugal commented on the potential 7–8 junior high configuration, noting that maintaining a 7–8 model could require the district to close an additional junior high school in order to achieve appropriate enrollment levels and efficiently utilize district facilities.

Board Member Sorensen added that a three-junior-high structure could recreate some of the feeder-pattern challenges the district is currently attempting to resolve. She noted that one junior high could end up feeding only a relatively small percentage of its students into a particular high school, similar to the current challenges experienced by Timpanogos High School. She emphasized the potential benefits of more complete feeder alignment.

Board Member Smith said he was not opposed to continuing to explore a 7–8 model. He suggested that if ninth grade moved to high school, junior high enrollment could theoretically be structured at approximately half the enrollment of the receiving high school while preserving feeder alignment. He acknowledged that some facilities could have unused classrooms but noted that those spaces could potentially be repurposed. Board Member Smith asked how keeping sixth grade in elementary school might affect the district's ability to expand preschool or other programs. He suggested that available secondary space could potentially support other district needs.

Board Member Rex reflected on her recent experience as an elementary parent and questioned the assumption that keeping sixth graders in elementary school necessarily preserves childhood innocence or prevents exposure to more mature behaviors. She noted that students develop at different rates and that some sixth graders may be very ready for a middle school environment. Board Member Rex reiterated her strong support for true feeder patterns because she believes they would provide significant benefits to students and strengthen district programs. She acknowledged that she was not opposed to a 7–8 model but said she remained inclined toward the potential benefits of a thoughtfully designed 6–8 middle school model. She emphasized the importance of providing sixth-grade students with a “soft landing” and appropriate structures and supports as they transition into a secondary environment.

President Lyman said she appreciated the willingness of current junior high principals to consider creative approaches to serving sixth-grade students. She suggested that a sixth-grade model could include a primary or core teacher who builds a strong relationship with students while still allowing students opportunities to explore electives and other secondary experiences.

President Lyman emphasized that any transition would need to be intentional and responsive to legitimate concerns, including organizational and developmental challenges.

Vice President Hilton reflected on his recent experience teaching sixth-grade math in an elementary setting that operates with elements of a middle-school model, including students changing classrooms. He said he could envision sixth-grade students functioning successfully in a middle school environment but acknowledged that no configuration would perfectly meet the needs of every individual student. He emphasized the importance of identifying why the district chooses a particular model and determining how students would be supported within that model.

Board Member Sorensen brought the discussion back to the robust-school criteria and emphasized that, regardless of configuration, every school must have a foundation of high-quality teachers, effective leadership, a culture of belonging, strong safety practices, and effective operations.

Superintendent Jensen concluded the discussion by acknowledging the significant number of moving pieces involved in the boundary and configuration study. He noted that the issues discussed during the hearings and Board Meeting represented only one portion of a much larger process. He said the district would continue learning, listening, and gathering public input through upcoming focus groups and community meetings before final decisions are made.

2. Resolution #2026-019 – Authorization of Proposals, Bids, Design, Engineering, and Construction of New Gyms for Orem High School and Timpanogos High School

Superintendent Jensen introduced Resolution #2026-019, authorizing the district to begin the process of seeking proposals, bids, design, engineering, and potential construction of new gym facilities at Orem High School and Timpanogos High School. He explained that beginning the procurement process did not commit the district to construction costs. Rather, it would allow the district to begin the qualification and design process approximately six weeks earlier should the Board ultimately decide to move ninth grade into the high schools. Superintendent Jensen noted that additional gym facilities at both schools had previously been identified as needs and had been included in the 2022 bond proposal. The possible addition of ninth grade increased the urgency of addressing those needs.

President Lyman entertained a motion to approve Resolution #2026-019.

Motion: Board Member Guy Fugal moved to approve Resolution #2026-019.

Second: Vice President Sterling Hilton seconded the motion.

Board Discussion

Board Member Smith asked Superintendent Jensen to confirm that beginning the proposal and bid process would not itself create a cost obligation for the district. **Superintendent Jensen** confirmed that there was no cost simply to begin the procurement process. If the Board ultimately decided not to proceed with the project or configuration change, the district could stop the process before entering into a financial commitment. He explained that beginning the process now would save several weeks if the Board later chose to proceed. **President Lyman** recalled the Board's facilities tour and noted that both Orem High School and Timpanogos High School had identified additional gym space as a need even before grade configuration discussions began. She said Pleasant Grove High School and Mountain View High School already have additional gym capacity and viewed the proposed projects as helping create greater parity among the district's four high schools. **President Lyman** said she believed the facilities would likely be needed regardless of the final grade configuration, although moving ninth grade to high school would accelerate the need. **Board Member Smith** clarified that Mountain View's auxiliary gym is not equivalent in size or design to the type of facility being contemplated for Orem and Timpanogos high schools. **Board**

Member Rex asked whether the project planning could also include classrooms adjacent to the proposed gyms in case additional instructional space was needed. **Business Administrator Jason Sundberg** explained that the district had used a similar procurement process for the District Office and transportation facility.

He described the Request for Statements of Qualifications process, noting that it generally requires several weeks to advertise, receive responses, select qualified architectural firms, and begin design work. He said the request could include options for a gym along with possible additional classrooms so the district could receive preliminary cost information and determine whether permanent classrooms, portable classrooms, or another solution would be most appropriate. **Superintendent Jensen** asked **Mr. Sundberg** to explain potential funding sources. **Mr. Sundberg** explained that Alpine School District previously established a capital building fund through the Truth in Taxation process. Those funds are restricted for capital projects and were intended to allow construction projects to be completed using accumulated cash rather than relying solely on long-term bonding and interest costs. He estimated that approximately \$30–34 million in capital funds could ultimately be available to Timpanogos School District at the time of the district split, depending on the final allocation. He further explained that if Timpanogos School District maintained the associated tax increments in the future, the district could continue generating annual revenue for capital projects. **Vice President Hilton** asked for confirmation that the funds discussed are restricted specifically to capital projects and cannot be used for ongoing operational expenses. **Mr. Sundberg** confirmed that the funds are capital funds and are not appropriate for ongoing operating expenses. **President Lyman** asked **Board Member Wilson** whether she had additional questions or comments. **Board Member Wilson** asked what was creating the immediate pressure to move forward with the gym projects—additional sanctioned sports or the possibility of adding ninth grade and needing sufficient physical education capacity. **Superintendent Jensen** explained that the potential addition of ninth grade was what made the timing more urgent. He said that if the Board decides in October to move ninth grade into the high schools, beginning the process now could allow the new facilities to be completed approximately six weeks earlier. He added that even without the grade configuration change, current gym and physical education capacity presents challenges for school operations and athletic programs. **Board Member Wilson** noted that the projects had already been identified as needed in the unsuccessful 2022 bond and emphasized that the need was legitimate rather than simply an addition being proposed because of the district reorganization. **President Lyman** agreed, noting that the need existed in 2022 and had only increased as additional sports have been sanctioned. **Mr. Sundberg** noted that Timpanogos High School shares the same original floor plan as Lone Peak High School and that an additional gym had been constructed at Lone Peak approximately a decade earlier.

The motion passed unanimously. Resolution #2026-019 was approved, 7/0.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS & COMMENTS

Board Member Wilson thanked those who made the effort to attend the meeting and public hearings.

She expressed appreciation for community input and emphasized that the Board is listening, even when its eventual decisions may not align with every individual's preferred outcome.

She encouraged community members to continue participating and working with the Board throughout the decision-making process.

Board Member Rex recognized PTA volunteers throughout the district and shared her positive experience attending a recent PTA meeting at an elementary school formerly attended by her children.

She expressed appreciation for parents who volunteer significant time to make schools stronger.

Board Member Rex reflected on a comment made earlier about not avoiding better outcomes simply because achieving them may be difficult. She acknowledged that the Board's current work involving

robust schools, closures, and configuration is difficult but emphasized that Board members are trying to make decisions they believe will ultimately benefit students.

She referenced her family's experience with the consolidation of Sierra Park and Hillcrest into Centennial Elementary and noted that, although the transition was difficult, the resulting school provides opportunities that were not previously available, including qualified specialists.

Board Member Rex expressed optimism that difficult changes could ultimately create stronger schools and reiterated her desire to make Timpanogos School District the best district possible.

Board Member Smith reported on a recent joint meeting with the Lindon City Council.

He said city and district leaders shared information about projects and issues affecting one another and described the meeting as productive.

He noted that the Board had previously held a similar meeting with Orem City and anticipated future meetings with Pleasant Grove and Vineyard.

Board Member Smith also thanked those who attended the public hearings and participated in the Study Session. He said the comments helped him explore his own thinking, hear other perspectives, and better understand community concerns as he prepares to make decisions for the district and its students.

President Lyman discussed the Board's efforts to strengthen relationships with municipalities.

She noted that boundary and school consolidation decisions will affect communities beyond the school district and said the Board is intentionally seeking input from city leaders and working collaboratively with local governments.

President Lyman again referenced the opening words of the district vision, "Together, we," and emphasized that educating children is a shared community responsibility.

She expressed hope that those participating in the hearings felt heard. President Lyman said that although public comment was initially one of the aspects of Board service she felt least comfortable with, it had become one of the most valuable parts of her work because community feedback continually informs her thinking.

She also noted that the Board receives feedback through the district website, email, and other communication channels and expressed gratitude for those opportunities to hear from the public.

Vice President Hilton thanked community members for attending and echoed President Lyman's appreciation for the public hearings as an important source of information.

He acknowledged that community members bring different experiences and therefore different perspectives to the discussion. He said he did not view differing perspectives as problematic and emphasized that multiple perspectives can simultaneously be legitimate.

Vice President Hilton said the Board's responsibility is to consider those varied perspectives and make decisions intended to benefit both current and future students.

He expressed appreciation for feedback that had helped him consider issues he had not previously considered and said he remained optimistic about the process.

Vice President Hilton also commented briefly on his recent experience teaching sixth grade, describing it as both exhilarating and humbling.

Board Member Sorensen thanked those who attended and participated in the meeting.

She specifically addressed district employees and emphasized that their well-being is also an important consideration as the Board evaluates school closures, boundaries, and grade configuration.

She assured employees that the Board is thinking about how future decisions will affect them and emphasized that caring for educators is an important district value alongside caring for students. Board Member Sorensen encouraged employees to provide feedback as the study process continues.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Jensen reflected on the district's adopted vision and values, particularly the commitments to integrity and transparency, open communication that assumes goodwill, and valuing the perspectives and experiences of students, educators, parents, and community members.

He said that after several months of working closely with the Board, he had observed those values consistently reflected in Board members' approach to community meetings and decision-making.

Superintendent Jensen expressed appreciation for working in an environment where Board members are open to listening and seriously considering multiple perspectives.

Board member Guy Fugal left the meeting at 7:54 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board and no need to convene a Closed Session pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-205, President Lyman entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Board member Smith moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Vice President Hilton seconded the motion.

The board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously, 6/0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:06 p.m.